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# FARMINGTON Observer

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## Football food

Football food is more  
for tailgating  
according to  
some local  
experts. B1



## Our Towns

### Scholarships

The Associated Food  
Dealers of Michigan recently  
awarded



scholarships to  
Theresa  
Bashi and  
Sonia  
Lousia of  
Farmington  
Hills.



Bashi is a freshman major-  
ing in pharmacy at Wayne  
State University. She was an  
honor roll graduate from  
Walled Lake Western High  
School and was awarded  
Outstanding Marketing  
Student. She is the daughter  
of Abdelaziz and Ferial  
Bashi.

Lousia is a  
junior studying  
nutrition and health  
sciences at Wayne State  
University. A graduate of St.  
Agatha High School in  
Redford, she is the secretary  
of the Chaldean American  
Student Association at  
Wayne State. She is the  
daughter of Raad and Sandra  
Lousia.

### Hospitality Heroes

MGM Grand pit managers  
Jamie Snyder of Farmington  
Hills and Bob Brookstein of  
Sterling Heights, received  
the International Hospitality  
Hero Awards from Greg Shay  
Board Member of the Nevada  
Hotel & Lodging Association.

The pair received the  
award for their rescue  
efforts in New York City  
shortly following the events  
of Sept. 11. They had walked  
five hours to a Salvation  
Army post to help transport  
ice for the men and women  
who were searching for sur-  
vivors, and were later select-  
ed as two of 12 volunteers to  
go to "Ground Zero" to work  
alongside the New York  
Police Department, the Fire  
Department of New York and  
the FBI.

### Tyndale staffers

Two staff members at  
William Tyndale College in  
Farmington Hills have  
recently been promoted to  
new positions for the 2002-  
03 academic year.

Donna Holcomb, formerly a  
Dean of Students in the  
accelerated business admin-  
istration degree program, is  
the Dean of Learning. She  
will be responsible for the  
development and implemen-  
tation of new assessment  
and academic advising pro-  
grams. Ronal Krugh as the  
new Dean of Students will be  
responsible for all student  
development and co-curricu-  
lar programs.

Holcomb holds a master's  
degree in counseling from  
North American Baptist  
Seminary and has worked in  
higher education at  
Davenport University in  
Grand Rapids, Messiah  
College in Pennsylvania and  
Kings College in New York.

## Citizens begin new life in ceremony

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

It's never too late to become an  
American citizen.  
Just ask Zeinab Lotfy original from  
Cairo, Egypt. At age 86, she was one of 279  
people representing 53 countries who  
were sworn-in as U.S. citizens at the  
Costick Activities Center Friday during

Heritage Week in Farmington/  
Farmington Hills.

Lotfy said she was happy to finally be a  
citizen after spending 14 years in the area  
with her family.

"Of course I'm happy," she said.

In cooperation with the Immigration  
and Naturalization Service, the Costick  
Center was turned into a temporary  
court, where the oath of citizenship was

provided by Magistrate Judge Paul  
Komives of the U.S. District Court.

Robbie Habib Taha, 26, originally from  
Lebanon, was also sworn-in Friday.

"It's a wonderful thing," he said as he  
examined his citizenship papers on the  
way out.

He said it took a year to get the certifi-  
cate after applying for it.

Taha said he left Lebanon for the U.S.

for three reasons: to avoid war, spend  
time with family and pursue his studies.  
He said he is a medical student.

Sahara Islam, originally from  
Bangladesh, was there with her neighbor  
Billal Sheikh, also from Bangladesh.

"It's a great day, I'm proud," said Sheikh  
of Detroit.

He said his father was an immigrant.

PLEASE SEE SWEARING IN, A6



Brothers Renald and Egil Bregu take the oath of citizenship.



Zeinab Lotfy



Sahara Islam

## Kick-off celebrates island of diversity

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington residents often don't real-  
ize and take for granted the wonderful  
community they live in, said Mark  
Steckloff, an active Harrison High School  
parent.

One of several designated "community  
voices" who spoke at the Heritage  
Festival kickoff event Thursday at the

Costick Center in Farmington Hills,  
Steckloff talked about his daughter  
Samantha, a June 2002 Harrison High  
School graduate and freshman at Purdue  
University.

She was surprised by the composition  
of the university and found for the first  
time in her school career she was in an  
"overwhelmingly white" hall and dormi-  
tory.

"She just wasn't used to it," Steckloff

said. "Having come from this school sys-  
tem and the neighborhood she lived in,  
she was very astute to diversity, appreci-  
ated it and frankly missed it."

Samantha, who is white, learned there  
were a number of optional seminars and  
discussion groups for freshmen at the  
end of orientation week. One geared  
toward African American students was,  
"How to Survive in a Predominantly

PLEASE SEE DIVERSITY, A5

## Teen leads Hills police to suspect

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police are calling  
a Hills teen a hero Thursday, as he  
helped lead police to the capture of a  
suspected serial bank robber who  
struck a bank Tuesday evening.

Police were able to use the partial  
license plate information provided by  
the teen, who gave chase after the  
robber struck the Comerica Bank  
inside the Kroger store at 11 Mile and  
Middlebelt around 7:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Just before midnight Wednesday  
evening, the South Oakland Narcotics  
Intelligence Consortium (SONIC),  
consisting of officers from  
Farmington Hills, Novi, West  
Bloomfield Township and the  
Oakland County Sheriff's  
Department, converged on a Super 8  
Motel in Saginaw Township and  
arrested Tore Leandre Price, 27, of  
Detroit.

According to Police Chief William  
Dwyer, SONIC officers, Farmington  
Hills detectives and police surveil-

PLEASE SEE ROBBERY, A6

## Attorney becomes advocate

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine hiring an attorney who is  
blind.

Can he really get the job done?

For Richard Bernstein, that's a preju-  
dice he faces everyday.

The 28-year-old works as a trial  
lawyer for his famous father, "Call Sam"  
Bernstein, at their firm in Farmington  
Hills.

The younger Bernstein who has been  
blind since birth is making it known  
that people with disabilities are  
accountable and productive members  
of society.

They just have to work harder, he  
says.

As a way to prove it - eclipsing the

fact that he holds a law degree -  
Bernstein is running on the statewide  
ballot as a Democrat for the Wayne  
State University Board of Governors.

The Birmingham resident said he is  
passionate about becoming known as a  
candidate for an elected position, as a  
way to show people that those with dis-  
abilities can do anything.

"About a year ago, Gov. Engler tried  
to eliminate the way special education  
services were conducted," Bernstein  
said of public education. "He wanted to  
put all the disabled kids in one class  
together with no age distinction. You  
could have had a kindergarten with a  
high school senior. He wanted to ware-  
house the disabled."

"I spent a year fighting them from

PLEASE SEE BERNSTEIN, A5



Attorney Richard Bernstein.

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Coming Thursday in the At Home  
section: Win a shopping spree and  
find out what's new in kitchen and  
dining room furnishings.

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
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